

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03664 021711Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SS-15 PM-07 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

OMB-01 RSR-01 /079 W

----- 107200

R 021630Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7987

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

WHITE HOUSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3664

WHITE HOUSE PASS MELVIN LAIRD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP NATO BE

SUBJECT: SCHLESINGER LETTER TO VANDEN BOEYNANTS; LATTER'S

VIEWS ON DPC AND US-SOVIET NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 129146

1. AFTER MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE VANDEN BOEYNANTS HAD READ SCHLESINGER LETTER, WHICH HANDED TO HIM AT NOON TODAY, HE ASKED THAT I RELAY TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE HIS COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE POINTS MADE IN THE LETTER AS WELL AS HIS CONVICTION THAT THE LETTER REFLECTS THE BEST WAY TO APPROACH DEFENSE PROBLEMS. HE SAID IT WAS IDENTICAL WITH HIS OWN AND BELGIAN APPROACH, NAMELY TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS.

2. VANDEN BOEYNANTS SAID THAT THE "MISUNDERSTANDING" THAT AROSE AT THE RECENT DPC MINISTERIAL SESSION HAS NOW BEEN CLEARED UP. HE SAID THAT, THANKS TO MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND PRESIDENTIAL AID LAIRD, HE HAD COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE US HAD TO PAINT A PICTURE OF MILITARY
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03664 021711Z

STRENGTH FOR HOME CONSUMPTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, US PROFESSIONS OF ALLIED STRENGTH CREATED AN ADVERSE PUBLIC

REACTION IN EUROPE WHERE PARLIAMENTS PRESENTED WITH OPTIMISTIC
FORCE ASSESSMENTS ARE LIKELY TO TAKE THE ATTITUDE THAT NOTHING
MORE NEED BE DONE. VANDEN BOEYNANTS CONCLUDED THIS SUBJECT BY
EXPRESSING HIS SATISFACTION THAT THE US WILL INDEED ABIDE BY ITS
NATO AND FORCE COMMITMENTS.

3. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, VANDEN BOEYNANTS SAID THAT LAST
WEEK'S TRIP TO THE US HAD ELIMINATED HIS CONCERN THAT THE US-
SOVIET AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR MIGHT
SIGNIFY A DECOUPLING OF US NUCLEAR POWER FROM EUROPEAN DEFENSE
OR THAT THE US HAD BY IMPLICATION AGREED TO A POLICY OF NON-
FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. VANDEN BOEYNANTS ADDED HIS
BELIEF THAT OTHER ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS WHO HAVE VISITED
ANNAPOLIS CAME AWAY WITH THE SAME IMPRESSION.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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30 JUN 2005

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